

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am signing Senate Bill No. 1448, but still have some concerns regarding the measure. It is unclear why the legislature chose to include a sunset of three years for the grade 2 testing, along with the grade 3 and 7 norm referenced testing portions of the program, while the sunset for the other components of the STAR program were extended for six years.

There is a compelling interest for students to be able to read by the 3rd grade, and ensuring that a testing mechanism is in place in grade 2 is critical in that process. If any sunset is included, it seems reasonable to have all components of the STAR program sunset and reviewed at the same January, 2011 date. For this reason, I will look to sign a bill that rectifies this inconsistency, as well as cleans up several technical errors in this bill.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger